

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5.

In conventional image reproduction systems, a document author initiates the process of printing a document by first creating a PDL file. This file typically includes the document content encoded in a page description language ("PDL"). The author then creates a print job by associating a job ticket with this PDL file. This job ticket includes several data fields identifying the print job and carrying information about how to finish the print job. For example, if the printed output is to be stapled, collated or printed on special stock, this information is typically found in corresponding fields on the job ticket. The print job, which with the job ticket and its accompanying PDL file, is then transmitted to a control stage associated with a printer.

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13.

At the control stage, the author's print job is placed in a print queue, together with print jobs from other users of the printer. Once the author's print job moves to the top of the print queue, job management software running on the control stage decomposes the PDL file associated with the author's print job. This decomposition process transforms the PDL file ~~is transformed~~ into a sequence of byte maps, each of which represents a page in the author's document. These byte maps are then sent to the printer to be printed and finished in a manner consistent with the instructions specified n the various fields on the job ticket.

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1.

In either case, the shadow job ticket **54** includes shadow data fields **56a-e** that correspond to the base data fields **46a-e**. These shadow data fields can either carry instructions, as indicated in the first and third shadow data fields **56a**, **56c**, or they can be empty, as indicated by the second, ~~third and fourth~~ and fifth shadow data fields

56b, 56d, 56e.

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph beginning on page 9, line 5.

A flag **58** indicates whether the shadow job ticket **54** is in an active state or in an inactive state. If the shadow job ticket **54** is in an inactive state, the ticket manager **40** ignores the existence of the shadow job ticket. In the resulting composite job ticket, each composite data field carries an instruction that corresponds to an instruction in the base data field. However, if, as shown in FIG. 3, the flag **58** indicates that the shadow job ticket **54** is in an active state, the instruction carried by each composite data field **44a-e** is either the instruction in the corresponding base field **46a-e**, if the corresponding shadow data field is empty, or the instruction carried by the shadow data field **56a-e** otherwise. As shown in FIG. 3, the second, ~~third and fourth~~ and fifth shadow data fields **56b, 56d, 56e** are empty. Hence the finishing instructions in the second, ~~third and fourth~~ and fifth composite data fields **44b, 44d, 44e** are those that are in the second, ~~third and fourth~~ and fifth base data fields **46b, 46d, 46e**. The finishing instructions in the first and third composite data fields **44a, 44c** are those that are in the first and third shadow data fields **56a, 56c**.